

Citizenship to refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan

1962. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of refugees belonging to minority communities like Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians fled from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan and are staying in India for many years and demanding Indian citizenship; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) and (b) Legal migrants including those belonging to six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan can acquire citizenship of India as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder on becoming eligible for the same. For speedy disposal of their citizenship applications, Central Government, in December, 2016, has delegated its power to grant citizenship by registration under Section 5 and by naturalisation under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 to the Collectors of 16 districts in 7 States and Secretary (Home) of these 7 States where most of these migrants are residing.

As per data available, 2447 legal migrants belonging to six identified minority communities from the above 3 countries have been granted Indian citizenship by Collectors of 16 Districts and Secretary (Home) of 7 States.

Free hand to security forces to counter terrorists

†1963. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on giving free hand to security forces to counter the terrorists;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this direction, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government has zero tolerance policy towards terrorism. Terrorist activities have reduced significantly in the Hinterland of the country. Insurgent/Extremist incidents have also reduced significantly in North Eastern States and in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas. In Jammu and Kashmir,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

security forces are proactively engaging with terrorists, resulting in neutralization of large number of terrorists.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been established for investigation of terrorism related cases. Close and effective coordination mechanism exists between intelligence and security agencies at the Centre and the State level. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and re-organized to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with the Central/State Agencies concerned. States have raised Special Forces to deal with terror incidents and Central Armed Police Forces and National Security Guards have also been stationed at different locations to assist the States in dealing with such incidents. The Central Agencies have been organising capacity building programmes for the States forces regarding intelligence sharing and investigation of terror cases.

Zero tolerance policy on terrorism

†1964. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to implement the policy of zero tolerance on terrorism;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this direction till date; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) The Government has zero tolerance policy against terrorism.

(b) to (c) National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been established for investigation of terrorism related cases. Close and effective coordination mechanism exists between intelligence and security agencies at the Centre and the State level. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and re-organized to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with the Central/State Agencies concerned. States have raised Special Forces to deal with terror incidents and Central Armed Police Forces and National Security Guards have also been stationed at different locations to assist the States in dealing with such incidents. The Central Agencies have been organising capacity building programmes for the States forces regarding intelligence sharing and investigation of terror cases.

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